

THE GREEN REPORT

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FOR THE 13TH DISTRICT
2005



Dear Neighbors,

I am pleased to share with you on the following pages information on the 2005 legislative session. You will find my 2005 Legislative Report that highlights key legislation from this year's session, a survey on important issues facing the legislature and other valuable information. I fought hard to protect the programs that make a difference for you, your family and all of North St. Louis County.

Education should be at the top of the list for next year. The state must willingly shoulder the obligation to provide the best education for all of our children. We must bring about real change to the outrageously inequitable system that funds our public schools. Inequity in funding results in inequities in education.

I believe that working families, seniors and the disabled should not be priced out of health care, medications or the insurance coverage that helps them maintain their quality of life.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your involvement in the operation of our state's government. Good government requires good dialogue between elected officials and their constituents.

Even though the legislative session has ended, I will continue to work on your behalf by serving on an interim committee to study tax increment financing (corporate TIF abuse) and my staff and I will continue to provide many services to our constituents. I would like to thank everyone that sent a letter, an e-mail or called my office to voice your concerns or offer encouragement this past session.

I am committed to taking bold action to protect the lives - and well-being - of working people, and to preserve those qualities that have made North County a special place to live. I am honored to represent you in the Missouri Senate and hope that you will contact me if you have any issue involving state government with which I might be of service. For constituent services, you are encouraged to contact my Capitol office at (573) 751-2420 or my District office at (314) 868-4859 or you may also visit www.missourihelp.com, a constituent website provided by the Missouri Senate Democratic Caucus. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the Missouri Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Timothy P. Green".

Timothy P. Green
Senator, 13th District

In This Issue:

2005 Passed Legislation - Area Appointments to Boards and Commissions - Transportation Projects for the 13th District - Issue Survey and Many More Articles for your Information

SEN. GREEN'S LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

Protections for working families gained significant ground this session under the leadership of Sen. Timothy Green. Sen. Green was instrumental in fighting off harmful legislation and restoring some of the major budget cuts proposed by Gov. Blunt. In addition, Sen. Green was the catalyst for several major studies that will examine issues that set in opposition Missouri working families against large corporations.

One of Sen. Green's main focuses this session was highlighting how the flawed policies supported by Gov. Blunt will shift the cost of private business onto the backs of Missouri tax payers. Sen. Green convinced the GOP leadership, for example, to conduct a study on the improper use of tax increment financing (TIF), which funnels tax money away from the state and into the hands of private corporations. Sen. Green will serve on a special legislative committee that will study TIF abuses.

Tax increment financing is often used as corporate welfare. We need to ask ourselves as a state why we are giving tax breaks to huge corporations such as Wal-Mart, which then turn around and pay their employees such low wages; they are advised and in fact forced due to their situation to seek state assistance for healthcare.

Likewise, Sen. Green fought massive cuts to Medicaid by arguing that pushing 90,000 more Missourians into the ranks of the uninsured would end up costing taxpayers in the end. Cutting people off Medicaid is just another way to shift costs. When hospitals have to start picking up the slack, medical costs will rise, which in turn will increase all our insurance rates.

Reducing the state's cost for health care also frees up more money for corporate tax breaks. In turn, these corporations provide less and less health care for their employees who also end up in the ranks of the uninsured.

Part of Gov. Blunt's budget cuts included the closing of the Bellefontaine Habilitation Center in St. Louis. Through late-night negotiations, Sen. Green, working closely with Rep. Gina Walsh (D-69), restored \$24 million in state and federal funds for the center, which will remain open for at least one more year if Gov. Blunt does not veto the budget item.

The Governor's proposal to close Bellefontaine would be detrimental to hundreds of residents of the 13th District. These vulnerable citizens are an easy target, because they have no political voice and Sen. Green was able to provide a voice for them.

In addition to his fight against budget cuts, Sen. Green led the charge against legislation that would deteriorate

the rights of working Missourians.

SB 185, sponsored by Sen. John Loudon (R-Ballwin), would prohibit public agencies such as school districts, cities and counties from hiring contractors who have negotiated legally binding collective bargaining agreements – called



Sen. Green and Sen. Rita Days (D-14) discuss legislative issues during debate of the Senate.

Project Labor Agreements (PLA). Sen. Green labeled the bill a direct attack on the middle class in Missouri, adding that the bill would have denied working Missourians the ability to earn a living wage—a family supporting wage.

The middle class has taken hit after hit in this state, and should refuse to shoulder any more of the burden while large corporations are handed one tax-supported perk after another. By threatening to stall the legislative process, Sen. Green was able to keep SB 185 and SB 291, a detrimental prevailing wage bill, from coming to the Senate floor for a vote.

Sen. Green was also instrumental in creating a committee to study the flow of money to political campaigns. When the state instituted campaign contribution limits to individual candidates, hundreds of “independent committees” sprang up, which collect unlimited amounts of money. Sen. Green took on the issue this session, pointing out the lack of transparency that can result from the use of independent committees. These independent committees hide true disclosure from the public. When the General Assembly placed caps on individual campaign contributions, it was thought it would curtail the amount of money, but it threw gasoline onto a burning fire. After Sen. Green debated the issue on the Senate floor, the GOP leadership agreed to have the Missouri Ethics Commission conduct a study of third-party committees and the tracking of money into campaign funds.

NORTH COUNTY MoDOT PROJECTS



COMPLETED PROJECTS:

- ◆ New Bridge @ 367 and Chambers (\$3 Million)
- ◆ 26 New Bridges on I-70 from Downtown to Airport (\$110 Million)
- ◆ New Lindbergh Blvd (Route 67) and Natural Bridge (Route B) for airport expansion (\$110 Million – Funding by Airport except for \$14.4M)
- ◆ Widened Intersection and new signals – New Halls Ferry (Route AC) and Lindbergh (Route 67) (\$1.5M)
- ◆ New Signals at Washington/Elizabeth and I-270
- ◆ New Signals at West Florissant and I-270
- ◆ New Signals at Lilac and I-270
- ◆ New Asphalt Overlay on I-270 Outer Roads (McDonnell to Chain of Rocks)

ACTIVE PROJECTS

- ◆ Improve Slip Ramps/Islands on I-270 Outer Roads with decorative concrete (\$400,000 – nearing completion) (\$400,000)
- ◆ New Bridge at Route 367 and Maline Creek (Started spring '05 – Summer '05 Completion) (\$3M)
- ◆ Rebuild/Widen St. Charles Rock Road (Route 115) from I-270 to Lindbergh (Route 67)
- ◆ New Bridge at New Halls Ferry (Route AC) and Cold Water Creek (\$1.5M)
- ◆ New Bridge at Natural Bridge over Metrolink near UMSL
- ◆ Install Fiber Cameras/equipment on I-270 and I-70 for St. Louis Gateway Guide

UPCOMING PROJECTS

- ◆ Route 36 from I-270 to New Jamestown (1st two projects just had bid opening) (\$45M)
- ◆ Route 367 Bridges at Lindbergh and Coldwater (Contractor Starts in June 2005)
- ◆ New Signals at Bellefontaine and I-270 (\$300,000)
- ◆ Rebuild New Halls Ferry from I-270 to Cozens
- ◆ Paving various sections on Route 67, I-270, Florissant Road, New Halls Ferry Road, I-70, St. Charles Rock Road for Smooth Road Initiative

STUDENTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME



7th graders from St. Angela Merici -left
 8th graders from St. Thomas the Apostle - above left
 4th graders from Keeven Elementary - above

2005 Session Highlights & Lowlights

Education

School districts represented by Sen. Tim Green will lose \$16.5 million in state funding under the new Republican formula. In order to soften the blow to urban and suburban districts, Sen. Green authored an amendment that called on the State Board of Education to ensure that the local property tax assessment practices in rural Missouri are fair and equitable. Sen. Green also offered an amendment that would allow State Auditor Claire McCaskill to audit any school district in the state.



Under the new formula, the Jennings School District will lose \$1,896,586, Riverview Gardens School District will lose \$2,915,719, and the Hazelwood School District will lose \$277,810. The biggest hit will be felt by Ferguson-Florissant R-II, which will lose \$11,479,161.

Property taxes are now frozen in Ferguson-Florissant R-II and new construction revenue only averages \$2-million per year. State aid is the district's only new revenue source. Under the new formula, this school district would be held harmless which is a misnomer. Ferguson-Florissant R-II is a \$110-million operation with nearly 1,700 teachers and staff that requires at least \$5 million in new revenue each year just to maintain the status quo. Ferguson-Florissant has cut over \$12 million from the school budget in last three years.

Currently in rural Missouri, the tax assessment practices have been found to be both unfair and inequitable compared to the stricter urban property tax assessments. Rural Republican senators voted down the worthy amendment that would ensure fairness. Sen. Green will continue to work to guarantee urban districts are treated fairly under this new formula.

Healthcare

In light of the Governor's plan to throw tens of thousands of Missourians off Medicaid and to close assisted living centers such as Bellefontaine Habilitation Center, Sen. Green believed it was hypocritical for lawmakers to continue receiving tax-subsidized health insurance.

Sen. Green offered SB 151, which would have prohibited state senators and representatives from receiving any state health insurance. According to the Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan, adoption of the proposal would save the state

\$825,000 during the first year alone. Missouri has a "citizen legislature" meaning many legislators hold outside employment, which already offers private health insurance. Sen. Green will pre-file this legislation again in December and work toward its passage.

Mental Health Priorities

Sen. Green successfully restored \$24 million in state and federal funds for the Bellefontaine Habilitation Center, which will remain open for at least one more year. According to state analysts, the governor grossly miscalculated the savings, because the state would actually lose \$23 million in federal matching funds by closing the center.

As a centerpiece of Sen. Green's commitment to those affected by the reduction of mental health services, he introduced SB 167, which required that privately funded mental health facilities and community-based providers have the same reporting requirements for patient abuse as state mental health facilities. The General Assembly passed by consent the language requiring a cost benefit analysis before the closing or downsizing of any state mental health facility.

Working Families

Governor Blunt and Republican members in the House and Senate continued the assault on working families with the denial of vital medical care and lost time from work-related injuries and illnesses. Since 1926, the workers' compensation laws were intended to promote workplace safety, provide medical, and wage replacement coverage by employers not by the public.

The Republican workers' compensation language changed the definitions in current law that favors workers' rights and moves to restrict workers' ability to receive workers' compensation when injured. Statistics show that businesses are the leading source of workers' compensation fraud—not employees. This new law also weakens the fraud provision in favor of corporations.

Injured workers are waiting too long for their settlements too. They are forced to go on unemployment to pay the bills, which jeopardizes their settlement. The injured worker wants to go back to work and they are being neglected. This is yet another example of how the Governor has completely lost his moral compass when he championed these attacks on basic needs of all Missourians.

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Committees

Appropriations; Joint Committee on Capital Improvements and Leases Oversight; Commerce, Energy and the Environment; Joint Committee on Corrections; Joint Committee on Government Accountability; Joint Committee on Legislative Research; Joint Committee on Public Employee Retirement; Small Business, Insurance and Industrial Relations; Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics.

Boards and Commissions

Missouri State Employees' Retirement System Board; Missouri State Labor Council; St. Louis Labor Council; DePaul Health Center Advisory Board; Spanish Lake Association; Trinity High School Advisory Board

Campaign Finance Reform

Sen. Green called for more openness to lobbying activities and campaign contributions. His amendment would have made tracking contributions and lobbying efforts easier for the public. The amendment that would remove limits placed on campaign contributions to candidates and placed them instead on independent committees, also called third-party committees.

Special interests can contribute unlimited donations to third-party committees, which can then spend the money on behalf of candidates. In 2004 alone, third-party committees spent and contributed more than \$63 million.

Currently, it is very difficult to find out what third-party committees spend on individual candidates. If those committees were placed under limits, the money would flow directly to the individual candidate committees, where the public could easily view the contributions. A substitute for Sen. Green's amendment was offered and adopted, which

orders the Missouri Ethics Commission to study the effectiveness of the current campaign contribution limits by holding hearings about how the current system can be improved.



Senator Green's Legislation

SB 150-Creates the Public Service Accountability Act

SB 151-Prohibits state senators and representatives from receiving state health insurance

SB 166-Requires reporting by employers as to how many of its employees receive publicly funded health care benefits

SB 167-Requires privately funded mental health facilities to have the same reporting requirements for patient abuse as state mental health facilities

SB 201-Repeals law setting limits on campaign contributions to candidates for elected office

SB 282-Revises regulation of tax increment financing (TIF)

SB 333-Adopts an air quality program for schools, lays out the procedures and includes reporting provisions

SB 334-Add penalties for employing illegal aliens

SB 349-Makes various changes relating to prevailing wage law

SB 403-Authorizes professional counselors to diagnose

SB 459-Creates a tax deduction for small businesses and farmers that provide health insurance for employees

SB 549-Prohibits certain relatives of elected officials from registering as a lobbyist or serving as fee agents

SCR 11-Designates the month of March 2005 as Irish-American Heritage Month

HB 280-(Walsh) Requires election judges to take voting ballots and equipment to physically disabled voters unable to enter polling places

• *Bills That Passed This Year*

SB 1 - Amends various provisions of workers' compensation law*

SB 10 - Requires pseudo-ephedrine products to be sold by a pharmacist or technician

SB 21 - Modifies laws of adoption and creates the "Putative Father Registry" fund

SB 24- Limits expiration date to provision allowing for debt service on county bonds for renovation and enhancement

SB 37 - Modifies various provisions concerning alcohol related offenses

SB 38 - Adds highway designations within Newton and Jasper County

SB 68 - Creates a sales tax exemption for certain college athletic events

SB 69 - Authorizes the conveyance of land in Jackson County to Kansas City*

SB 71 - Changes which state employees may receive paid leave for

SB 73 - Allows county law enforcement agencies to have sexual offender registry websites

SB 74 - Creates new provisions with respect to the Department of Health and Senior Services

SB 95 - Modifies various provisions relating to lead abatement

SB 98 - Changes the names of various higher education institutions*

SB 176 - Provides for elections in Cole County and the City of Poplar Bluff*

SB 177 - Modifies a number of provisions regarding professional registration

SB 178 - Modifies provisions regarding licensing of podiatrists

SB 179 - Allows for utility companies to recover costs through alternate rate plans

SB 182 - Requires liquefied petroleum gas dealers to maintain liability insurance

SB 189 - Extends certain federal reimbursement allowance and requires Medicaid managed care organizations to pay a reimbursement allowance*

SB 196 - Modifies sales and use tax exemption eligibility for manufacturing and material recovery plants

SB 202 - Merges the Administrative Law Judge retirement system into the state employees' retirement system*

SB 210 - Modifies provisions affecting political subdivisions

SB 211 - Extends certain rights with regard to sales commissions

SB 216 - Requires depositions of crime laboratory employees to be in the county where employed

SB 225 - Modifies various sections pertaining to hazardous waste

SB 233 - Designates certain bridges and highways and requires future highway

designations to go through a new process

SB 237 - Modifies various telecommunications regulations

SB 238 - Requires all revenue derived from a certain sales tax to be deposited in the Community Children's Sales Tax Trust Fund

SB 246 - Allows state to issue bonds for grants and loans pursuant to several sections of Article III of the Missouri Constitution

SB 252 - Creates the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission*

SB 254 - Criminalizes distribution and possession of certain prescription medications on school property

SB 258 - Allows the Cass County Commission to submit the question of establishing a health center after a majority vote

SB 259 - Prohibits the Cass County Commissioner and the County Highway Engineer on the county planning board from voting

SB 261 - Creates certain requirements for the operation of the Missouri health insurance plan

SB 262 - Changes provisions for obtaining a license to sell intoxicating liquor by the drink

SB 266 - Alters the definition of "teacher"

in the teacher tenure act

SB 267 - Amends provisions relating to property tax reassessment

SB 270 - Modifies the linked deposit program and other duties of the State Treasurer*

SB 272 - Limits amount of revenue collectable from gaming boat admission fees

SB 274 - Regulates travel clubs

SB 279 - Adds demand drafts to certain transfer and presentment warranties in the Uniform Commercial Code

SB 280 - Revises education requirements for cosmetologists

SB 287 - Transitions the state away from a tax-rate driven education funding formula to student-needs based

SB 288 - Authorizes the Governor to convey land in Nodaway County to the Delta Nu Teke Association

SB 289 - Eliminates a grand jury's duty to examine public buildings and report on their conditions

SB 298 - Alters provisions regarding the superintendent and teachers of the St. Louis public school system

SB 299 - Removes school principals from certain sections of the Metropolitan school district's teacher tenure statute

SB 302 - Changes the election date for certain St. Louis school board members

SB 306 - Raises the amount school board members may accept for performing services for (or selling property to) their district

SB 307 - Increases the amount that public officials or employees can accept for services to their political subdivision

SB 318 - Modifies compensation for certain employees of the divisions of finance and credit unions

SB 320 - Creates lien for nonpayment of rental equipment fees

SB 323 - Establishes the eligibility criteria for grants to umbilical cord blood banks

SB 343 - Changes the laws regarding job development programs administered by the Department of Economic Development

SB 346 - Limits paddlesport outfitters liability

SB 347 - Modifies education requirements for professional counselors

SB 355 - Creates the Missouri Wine and Grape Board

SB 367 - Changes requirement for payment of overtime hours for nonexempt state employees

SB 372 - Provides for various measures relating to bicycle safety and the duties owed to bicyclists by motorists

SB 378 - Allows a person to replace two sets of two stolen license plate tabs per year and prohibits issuance of ticket for stolen tabs

SB 394 - Repeals law requiring the state treasurer to maintain a list of financial institutions doing business in Northern Ireland

SB 396 - Extends sunset on transfer of jet fuel tax to the aviation trust fund and increases air control tower funding

SB 401 - Repeals the three-child limit in police pension systems

SB 402 - Modifies laws relating to underage drinking

SB 407 - Modifies definition of "owner" in beneficiary deeds

SB 420 - Modifies numerous provisions regarding judicial procedures and personnel

SB 422 - Requires expunged records to be confidential

SB 423 - Creates new provisions and makes modifications to certain statutes relating to the DNA profiling system

SB 431 - Permits sales tax on food for the City of Independence

SB 450 - Authorizes the Governor to convey various pieces of state property

SB 453 - Modifies nuisance law

SB 462 - Modifies acquisition of sewer or water corporations by public utilities

SB 480 - Encourages effective involvement by parents and families in support of their children's education

SB 488 - Exempts salvage vehicles with cosmetic damage from highway patrol examination inspections for purposes of titling

SB 490 - Allows Warrensburg to annex areas along a road up to 2.5 miles from existing boundaries of the city

SB 500 - Provides for family cost participation in the Part C early intervention system

SB 501 - Creates the "Office of Comprehensive Child Mental Health"

SB 507 - Raises from \$250 to \$1,000 the value of property for which the auditor in certain counties is required to inventory

SB 516 - Eliminates a provision in Section 99.847 allowing districts to receive reimbursement for emergency services

SB 518 - Creates the Assistive Technology Trust Fund for assistive technology

SB 521 - Expands the membership of the Community Service Commission to include the Lieutenant Governor

SB 539 - Modifies provisions in various health care and social services programs*

SJR 1 - Resubmits the parks and soils tax to a vote of the people starting in 2008

* Signed by Governor

** Vetoes by the Governor



Gubernatorial Appointments for the 13th District



William "Bill" Miller (above) was appointed to the Board of Election Commissioners for Saint Louis County; Annette E. Slack (right) was appointed to the State Board of Health; and Terri Muray (not pictured) was reappointed to the Missouri State Board of Nursing

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